



STATE OF ARIZONA

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GOVERNOR

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May 20, 2008

The Honorable Timothy S. Bee
President
Arizona State Senate
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1297; State Telecommunications Program; Exemption

Dear President Bee,

Today I vetoed Senate Bill 1297, a bill that would have made the Cotton Research and Protection Council the first state government organization legislatively exempt from participating in the statewide telecommunications program.

The statewide telecommunications program makes one agency, the Department of Administration ("ADOA"), responsible for purchasing and managing the telecommunications systems for all the agencies of state government. By coordinating this effort through ADOA, the state takes advantage of economies of scale and benefits from system-wide uniformity in its telecommunications system. The Cotton Research and Protection Council sought this legislative exemption because it believes it can purchase telecommunications services for \$8,000 less than its current annual payment to ADOA.

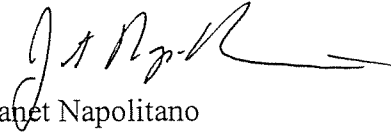
The benefits of a statewide telecommunications system, including the efficiency of technology service support, fungibility of hardware and connectivity within a system, outweigh the \$8,000 out-of-pocket cost savings cited. Once the legislature exempts the Cotton Research and Protection Council, other small agencies will try to follow suit. The loss to functionality and efficiency that would occur by supporting multiple, different systems throughout state government would be immense.

The Cotton Research and Protection Council's issue about cost of telecommunications services to the smallest organizations in government raises a more fundamental question: whether our smaller state organizations are appropriate candidates for consolidation, at least with regard to administrative functions. My office is exploring these options throughout state government.

The Honorable Timothy S. Bee
May 20, 2008
Page Two

For these and other reasons, I have vetoed Senate Bill 1297.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:LK

cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers
The Honorable Jake Flake